

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

IN RE:

01 JUL 13 PM 2 52

PETITION OF UNITED TELEPHONE
COMPANY TO CHANGE AND INCREASE
CERTAIN INTRASTATE RATES AND
CHARGES SO AS TO PERMIT IT TO EARN
A FAIR AND ADEQUATE RATE OF
RETURN ON ITS PROPERTY USED AND
USEFUL IN FURNISHING TELEPHONE
SERVICE TO ITS CUSTOMERS IN
TENNESSEE AND TO ADOPT NEW AND
REALISTIC DEPRECIATION RATES FOR
CENTRAL OFFICE EQUIPMENT

) OFFICE SECRETARY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

) Docket No. 01-00451

CONSUMER ADVOCATE AND PROTECTION
DIVISION'S RESPONSE IN OPPOSITION TO
AT&T'S PETITION FOR INTERVENTION

The Attorney General, through the Consumer Advocate and Protection Division ("Attorney General"), opposes the Petition for Intervention filed by AT&T Communications of the South Central States, Inc. ("AT&T") in this matter.

1. INTERVENTION SHOULD BE DENIED BECAUSE ACCESS CHARGES ARE NOT AN
ISSUE.

It is anticipated that AT&T will attempt to use intervention in this case as a means of trying to reduce the amount of access charges it pays United Telephone Company ("United"). United, however, has assured the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA") that, "United's Petition to change and increase intrastate rates and charges does not propose to change or increase access line charges." Response of United in Opposition to the Petition for Intervention of AT&T ("United's Response in Opposition") at 1. Accordingly, access charges are not an issue in this case.

If AT&T is seeking to reduce the access charges of rural local exchange carriers, that issue should be taken up in the already open docket, Access Charge Reform, Docket No. 97-00889. The use

of this forum would assure the development of a consistent policy on access charges, with no one company being targeted by AT&T simply because that company filed a rate case with the TRA.

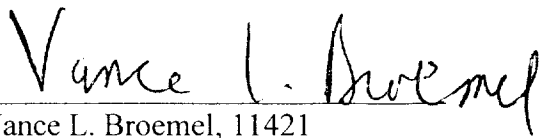
2. INTERVENTION AND LITIGATION ON ACCESS CHARGES WOULD DELAY THE PROCEEDING.

In addition, in light of the history of AT&T's intervention in the still pending Telephone Electronics Corporation's ("TEC") rate case, Docket No. 99-00995, the proposed intervention is almost certain to delay the present proceeding.

TEC, like United, is a rural local exchange company. TEC and the Attorney General filed a Joint Agreement on a rate reduction on January 7, 2000 for TRA approval. AT&T filed a Petition to Intervene which was granted, then proceeded to serve seven pages of data requests on the issue of access charges. No hearing date has been set for the TEC case. The customers of United deserve a prompt resolution in this case, not a multi-year delay caused by AT&T's attempt to hold any rate case by a rural carrier hostage until AT&T's demands on access charges are met. Accordingly, AT&T's Petition for Intervention should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

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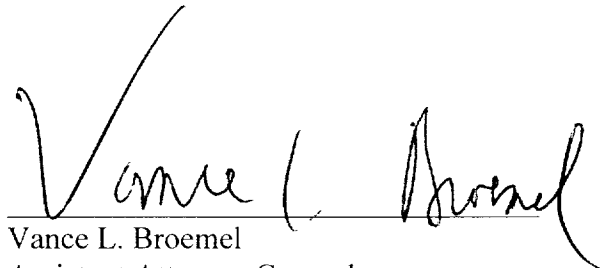
Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the ^{Response} in Opposition was served on parties below via U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, this July 13, 2001.

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